AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

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FORESEES WORLD'S PEACE

Plattsburg, N. Y., Sept. 12.—Universal peace will follow the European war—a war of aggrandizement and conquest, to divert people from their constructive work of humanizing and democratizing tendencies—were the views of President Gompers, in a Labor day speech, in referring to the present continental upheaval.

"The end of this war," he said, "will mean the vanquishment of autocracy, the emergence of society in which the people shall be supreme, and in which men's thought shall be given to the things of peace.

"Civilization had been pressing home the sacredness of human life upon the consciences of men. Knowledge had concerned itself with the problems of life that men might know themselves and the world in which they live in order to gain better mastery over the elements and conditions. Science had sought to wrest from nature understanding of life that men might have life more abundantly.

"It had studied the nature and causes of disease in order to conserve and safeguard human life. Trained minds were delving deep into the secrets of physical forces to bring them under the control of the will of mankind. They had harnessed the waters and the winds to the wheels of civilization. The arts in culture and love of humanity were studying the ills of society that every child might have the chance to be well born, to develop its full physical stature and to cultivate its mental and moral possibilities. In all things the purpose of civilization had been to glorify and enrich the lives of the people—all of the people.

"There were minds that were just upon the verge of giving to the world rich harvest of years of thought and study. There were hearts disciplined by life and understanding that were ready to interpret the beauty and the truth of life in the world's poetry. There were minds that were ready to voice the heart of things in music.

"There were fingers whose skill could interpret in immortal expression. There were the yeomanry in the fields, the fine types of the workshops giving all that was of value in muscle and in mind to the production of things necessary for the maintenance of life and civilization.

"These—all these—have been sacrificed to the service of the war lords. In this mad moment the countries of Europe are savagely condemning to terrible suffering and hardships and to untimely death these lives and talents that have been saved, cultivated and enriched at the expense of so much thought and effort. Bodies that have been protected by sanitary regulations are now, after long, hard struggles; muscles and minds conserved by short workdays; young men that represent so much in our hopes, in aspirations and possibilities, are now part of the marvelous machinery of war and devastation.

"Can this be our boasted civilization? Can this be the Europe of which Tennyson says: 'Never a lovelier cycle of Europe than a cycle of Cathay'"

TO SPREAD ANTI-UNION FIGHT

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—In the event of success in the Supreme Court decision in their war against union labor, this city was the next point of attack, declared Burt W. Byrd, Chicago, in an address before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations.

The clergyman repeated a conversation he had with President Bird, of the Stockton Manufacturers' Association, in which the employer stated that if the non-union shop movement was successful in Stockton the movement would be strengthened in other places that "somebody somewhere else would doubtless reduce wages and increase hours," and that it would then be time for the Stockton employers to do the same thing in order to compete.

The witness said that he was informed that the movement would be started today if it were not for the coming exposition.

The clergyman stated that while discussing that portion of the employers' declaration, which "unalterably opposed" wage reductions or the increase of hours, the employer told him that "they wanted this clause as a loophole because this was not simply a local movement."

GIVES ADVICE TO TEACHERS.

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 12.—"If you are partial to the girl who comes to your school with more elegant dresses, if you show more interest and attention to the daughter of the banker, the rich farmer or the society leader, you had better get out of school work," advised Prof. C. H. Freeman, of Oberlin College, University, in an address in this city to teachers.

"The function of our public schools is to help the poorer children. They need the education far worse than the better favored children," continued the speaker.

OPPOSE LEASE SYSTEM.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 12.—The Trades and Labor Council of this city has passed resolutions reaffirming its former position on the convict lease system and declaring in favor of the working of convicts on the public roads and on providing supplies for the State institutions, but against the working of convicts in competition with outside labor.

BANKS AID ANTI-UNIONISTS

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—Sensational testimony was submitted to the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations on the method employed by Stockton banks to force merchants into the anti-union employers' association of that city.

Fred L. Kincaid, a land dealer, told the commission he was requested to visit the First National bank, whose officers informed him that the policy of Edna Maguire, of the bank, was distasteful to the employers; that they would withdraw their support, and "put the screws on" if the policy of the paper was not changed.

The witness stated further:

"While I was talking to the banker he mentioned that a man had been in there the morning when we were over to the bank on an overdraft, and the banker had asked him if he would join the anti-unionists. He refused. The demand was then made upon him that he pay the overdraft immediately.

"In this case, what happened to owe me money on some notes. He came to me and told me of the incident and asked for a little more time on the notes, which I gave him. He said he was opposed to the manufacturers. A day or two later, he informed me he was called on to pay $200 which he owed for machinery in his laundry plant. He came to me for the money, but I was unable to lend it to him. However, I took him to another bank, the head of which had at various times suggested that I might secure business for him.

"When the situation was explained to this second banker, he promptly informed me that there was an agreement between the bankers that they were not to take accounts of that sort."

FUR WORKERS RAISE WAGES

New York, Sept. 12.—Fur Workers International union has closed a notable agreement with the Fur Manufacturers' association, composed of the largest and most influential employers in the business, and a general strike in this industry is avoided. A so-called independent association of fur manufacturers refused to sign the agreement, and after a strike was called against these small concerns, 292 firms signed up, and eighty-six of the independents joined the big association, thereby becoming part of the agreement made with that organization.

The new rates are:

Cutters who formerly received $25 a week will now receive a minimum of $30.

Operators and nailers are increased $5 per week.

Finishers are increased $6 per week.

Complete union recognition is granted, and shop chairmen will be allowed to collect dues, which must be paid.

No overtime will be permitted except during the first five working days of the week during the months of October, November, and December, and in no other time. Overtime work shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half.

No work shall be sent to the homes of workers, and no contracting or subcontracting shall be permitted inside of the factory.

No piece-work shall be permitted, and week and labor laws shall be considered part of the agreement.

The employers further agree that if the union will obtain from the firm group of employers conditions and standards of employment more favorable than those herein stipulated, they will grant similar of such higher standards and conditions shall become effective upon the firms signing the contract.

About 9,000 workers are affected by this settlement. A. F. of L. organizer Frayne assisted in the negotiations.

ALIEN BIRTHS IN 1910 CENSUS.

Washington, Sept. 12.—There were 13,515,886 persons of foreign birth in the United States in April, 1910, according to an interesting report on population issued by Director William J. Harris, of the census, in the Department of Commerce. These 13,515,886 foreigners constituted 14.7 per cent of the population of the United States in 1910; 13,345,545 of them were whites, the remainder, which was only 170,641, representing chiefly Japanese and Chinese. The foreign born in the United States in 1900 numbered 10,213,276 and constituted 13.6 per cent of the total population.

The country of birth of the 13,345,545 white foreigners in 1910 was as follows: England, 878,454; Scotland, 261,394; Wales, 93,414; Ireland, 1,352,151; Germany, 2,501,181; Norway, 403,858; Sweden, 665,189; Denmark, 181,921; Netherlands, 120,405; Belgium, 449,397; Luxemburg, 3,068; France, 117,236; Switzerland, 124,834; Portugal, 27,307; Spain, 29,677; Italy, 1,343,079; Russia, 1,962,752; Finland, 129,867; Austria, 1,174,924; Hungary, 496,666; Roumania, 53,826; Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro, 23,231; Greece, 101,284; Turkey in Europe, 82,320; Turkey in Asia, 9,450; Australasia (French), 385,083; Canada (other than New Foundland), 810,962; Mexico, 219,802; Cuba and other West Indies (except Porto Rico), 23,149; all other countries, 56,701.

FOR WORKINGMEN'S HOMES.

Boston, Sept. 12.—The first annual report of the State Homestead Commission is declared to be a classic on the subject of providing homes for workers and kindred questions. Charts show that the highest infant mortality is in the congested districts, and that the towns in the towns and cities where sanitary conditions are up to date and where the population is not overcrowded.

The need of encouraging people to enter the agricultural districts is important, and also the importance of spreading information. The constitutional objection to land ownership by corporations is discussed and the commission says:

"Wherever the State has undertaken such work, profound economic, social and political advantages have resulted."

It is shown that Australia conquested the population the greater number of deaths due to tuberculosis.

Recommendations are made concerning local planning boards; profitable use of suburban homes; assessment of betterments; the establishment of residential districts; and for the establishment and endowment of agricultural instruction for families.

WOOD CARVERS MEET.

Boston, Sept. 12.—The convention of the International Wood Carvers' association decided to submit to the referendum the question of affiliating with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The same course was taken on a proposition to create an international out-of-work fund. Grand Master Gledhill reported that some manufacturers there and elsewhere were using a composition product which ground wood carving. It was decided to ask the A. F. of L. to urge a national law to prohibit such deception. Municipal markets to sell food at cost were favored. The physical examination of workers was given much attention by the convention. It was charged that large firms in Cleveland and Camden, N. J., employ this system, and any one with the slightest physical blemish is rejected, regardless of his trade qualifications or circumstances.

UNEQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Washington, Sept. 12.—Wide variation in the pay for the same or similar work in the 100 most striking occupations is revealed by the investigation of teachers' salaries just completed by the United States Bureau of Education. The rates vary from $2,400 a year for New York city elementary teachers to $300 in certain rural communities. Even in cities of the same class there are considerable differences in the salaries paid, although Western States have steadily raised the rates, which are fairly well standardized. Superintendents' salaries also are noted to determine the actual conditions of the teaching profession.

OHIO WORKERS TO MEET.

Cincinnati, Sept. 12.—Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the Ohio State Federation of Labor has issued a call for the thirty-first annual convention of that body to be held in Youngstown, starting Monday, October 12. The call says: "We have a large industrial interest in this fall election, and the work of preparing labor's program of legislation to be acted upon by the legislature which meets January 1, is the work cut out for this convention of the State Federation."

SECURE SEVEN-HOUR DAY.

Youngstown, Ohio, Sept. 12.—A 99 per cent organization of moving picture operators made it possible to secure a demand for a seven-hour day for each man, a slight wage increase, and full union recognition. The agreement was secured without difficulty, and expires September 1, next year.

A TRUTH EMBEDDED IN LAW.

(From the New York World.)

To Senator Cummins, of Iowa, belongs the honor of originating this sentence which, by the action of the Senate, now introduces section 7 of the new Anti-Trust bill:

THE LABOR OF A HUMAN BEING IS NOT A COMMODITY OR AN ARTICLE OF COMMERCE.

The purpose of Congress is to protect labor unions and farmers' organizations from summary condemnation under the anti-trust laws. In their case, as in that of corporations, there must be proof of crime before there can be conviction, and no injunction shall be issued forbidding individual members from lawfully carrying out the legitimate objects of their organizations.

When section 7, often referred to as "labor's bill of rights," passed the House it was highly objectionable, for the reason that it made no distinction between unions acting lawfully and unions acting unlawfully. The Senate amendments have safeguarded that point perfectly, but of even greater importance they have introduced into Federal law an idea that fittingly supplements the Emancipation Proclamation and the thirteenth amendment.

Labor was a commodity and an article of commerce when it was bought and sold under cover of the common law, as in the case of indentured servants; when it was trafficked in wholesale between nations, States and individuals, as in African slavery; when shiploads of coolies were brought to this country in practical bondage; when peonage was established in various parts of the United States; when the children of the Republic were exploited in the mills, and when great employers imported thousands of working men to take the place of higher-priced labor.

These infamies have all been stopped by law, but it remained for the present Democratic Senate, under the leadership of a Republican, to put into a few simple words the rule which has guided us. It is more than a rule, more than a sentiment, and even more than a principle. It is an invincible truth as deadly to the mummers of so-called political economy in the books as to inhumanity and greed in action.

UNCLE SAM TO LOAN MONEY?

Washington, Sept. 12.—United States Senator Jones of Washington has introduced a bill in the Senate to amend the federal reserve board act to organize and put in operation a loaning system through which money can conveniently and may be made to any one person at not to exceed 1 per cent interest, and for a period of time not to exceed twenty years. These loans shall be made only for the purpose of acquiring farm lands or city property for residence purposes, or same for residence purposes, or for improving residence property.

The bill provides that the loans shall be made "to such honest, industrious, deserving, chiefly American, and in the judgment of said board, with the property so purchased or improved as security, will reasonably insure the repayment of such loan with interest within the time fixed."

In introducing the bill, Senator Jones made this comment:

"Mr. President, the strong and the powerful are able to present their claims to Congress for consideration in cases of emergency and to secure relief, and that is very proper; we are loaning money to banks or artificial persons on satisfactory security and permit them to loan to the people on short time and high rates of interest if satisfactory security is offered, but there are a great many of our people who are really in need of help, really in need of assistance, who are not in a position to present their claims personally to Congress. This bill is intended to furnish relief to deserving people and I cannot avail myself of the provisions of the banking laws where security is required, and then only at a high rate of interest exacted, but who will be able to secure the government from loss. This bill is intended to take the place entirely of the rural credit bills which have been introduced, but it is intended to supplement those measures."

WANT ONE DAY'S REST IN SEVEN

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—An appeal to all unionists and sympathizers to work and vote for the proposition for one day's rest in seven for barbers, which will be decided at the November election, has been issued by the organization.

"It will give California a six-day law, for which organized labor has always stood. It means a shortening of the hours of labor each week and employment for a larger number of men. The six-hour law does not limit the number of hours during the six work days, but provides the hours of every employe 10 per cent one day in seven. No man wants to work all the mite. Constant daily employment destroys one's health, shortens life, robs one of home and social privileges, and deprives workers of the real enjoyment of life. When the barbers' unions adopted the rule to close on Sundays, there resulted a large reduction in the sick benefits paid to their members. It is claimed by physicians that seven-day toilers die, ten years sooner than six-day laborers. This bill is a life protector."

SAYS GREAT PROSPERITY NEAR

Chicago, Sept. 12.—United States Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, told the Illinois State Bankers' association that the European war would make the United States opportunity of becoming the greatest financial center of the world. His declaration was concurred in by Arthur R. Reynolds, president of the American Bankers' association.

"The United States is entering upon the greatest era of general prosperity that has ever been known," he said. "It will be an era that will not be interrupted by a panic, but will be attended by permanent stability."

MUST PAY COMPENSATION.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 12.—Hundreds of small coal mine owners who lease them for operation will be required to pay compensation, the State Industrial Commission, which makes the owner liable in all cases of injury, has decided. Compensation. This decision was made in the case of a company that leased a mine in the Hocking Valley district, which failed to contribute to the workmen's compensation fund.

SIGN UNION CONTRACT.

Denver, Sept. 12.—Thirty-five independent coal operators of this state have signed working agreements with the United Mine Workers of America, and thousand men are affected. The scale in force the past year was again signed. The operators asked for the inclusion of several clauses in the agreement for their protection and the union complied. It is believed that other independent operators will sign within a few days.

WANT HIGHER PAY.

Syracuse, Sept. 12.—The Stage Employes and the Musicians' unions have presented demands upon theatrical managers asking for wage increases and other changes. The agreement also applies to moving picture houses.

POLISHERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Detroit, Sept. 12.—The metal polishers have settled their strike against the firm of Cadillo Bros., when it is claimed, attempted to inaugurate nonunion conditions in their shop.

CONVENTION CALL.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The A. F. of L. has issued the call for its thirty-fourth annual convention, to be held in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, beginning 10 o'clock, Monday morning, November 9.

To be entitled to representation, organizations must have obtained a charter at least one month prior to the convention, and no person will be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent.

Reference is made as follows to the importance of this convention:

"It is, of course, entirely unnecessary here to enumerate the important subjects which our forthcoming convention will concern itself, but the reminder is not at all amiss that every effort must be made to broaden the field and means for the organization of new and unorganized workers, to strive to bring about more effectually than ever a better day in the lives and homes of the toilers, to defend and maintain by every honorable means in our power the right to organize for our common defense and advancement, for the exercise of our normal and constitutional activities, to protect and promote rights and interests of the workers; and to assert at any risk the freedom of speech and of the press and the equal rights before the law of every worker with every other citizen; the tremendous conflict now being waged in Europe and its possible consequences and results, not only upon the people of European countries but upon the people of America as well as on the whole civilized world, must of necessity receive the deepest solicitous consideration of the working people of America. These and other great questions of equal importance will, of necessity, occupy the attention of the Philadelphia convention."

WHY SAILORS DON'T MARRY

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—Low wages and frequent unemployment is the reason why only five per cent of the Pacific coast seamen are married, said Paul Scharrenberg, a member of that organization and secretary of the State Federation of Labor, before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations. The witness declared this condition typified the greatest social loss caused by unemployment—that the seasonal laborer cannot have a family. Unemployment was also a great contributing cause to the prevalent social unrest, the unionist said.

Scharrenberg's proposals as remedies for unemployment were as follows: The thorough organization of migratory labor; the single tax, to break up the land monopolies; a universal eight-hour day, the maximum length which had been proven an invalid, he said, in the cases of the women's eight-hour law and the eight-hour mining law; the restriction of immigration, and the disposition of public work so that it would be done during the winter when there are no farmers.

FIRM ON CLAYTON BILL.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The Senate has voted to insist upon its amendments to the Clayton anti-trust bill, and named as conferees Senators Culberson, Overman, Chilton, Clark of Wyoming, and Nelson of Minnesota, to meet a like committee from the House. The difference of opinion rests on the sections relating to business.

U. S. IS SELF-SUPPORTING.

Washington, Sept. 12.—This country is not only practically self-supporting; but possesses, in many lines, a large surplus available for protection against famine in other countries, and for meeting exceptional demands from abroad, is the decision reached by the Department of Commerce after inquiry into the assets of the United States.

WHY LABOR UNIONS EXIST.

Washington, Sept. 12.—In an address in this city, Representative Keating, of Colorado, a member of the labor group, declared the existence of labor unions was necessary to curb the aggressions of organized capital and as a means of equalizing the status of the wage earner.

COLORADO'S MILITARY DEBT

Denver, Sept. 12.—Under the caption "Colorado's Military Debt," the United Mine Workers in their last bulletin, issued to counteract the mine owners' publicity department, discuss the financial toll citizens of this state will be called upon to meet. The workers say:

"At the request of the coal operators, the Colorado militia spent six months in the coal strike districts, during which there was no trouble in the district, except a few skirmishes, where strikers were fired upon by themselves and against mine guards, state officials claimed it was necessary to saddle a million-dollar debt on the taxpayers of the whole state that the property of the operators might be 'protected.'

"Colorado appropriated $1,000,000 of the taxpayers' money to 'protect' property on which the mines receives a total yearly tax of $12,378,67.

"Practically all of this million-dollar military debt was contracted in 'protect' property in Las Animas and Huerfano counties, on which Colorado receives $2,500.22 a year in state taxes.

"Industrial history does not reveal a mine where it has been possible to get out coal without at least a tipple. Yet the coal operators lease 8,226 acres of your land in Las Animas county valued at $1,307,400, on which there are no improvements, according to their tax schedules.

"It must be remembered that, in addition to incurring a million-dollar debt, Colorado's militia has violated rights at the expense of personal and constitutional rights."

COLORADO UNIONIST PRAISED.

Trinidad, Col., Sept. 12.—The Free Press of this city, prints the following editorial comment on a well-known member of the Horseshoers' union:

"Brady Hamilton, the auditor, is again standing firm as a rock between the people and the grasping greed of graft. This fearless auditor refuses to issue warrants for the sum of $10,000, for the use of troops by this state, during the days when it infested the strike zone and kicked up disturbance, not and bloodshed where all would have been quiet without its presence.

"Kenehan's reason for withholding the warrants are good and sound. The claims have been approved by the special military board, but they are not accompanied by the bills of the citizens who ask payment. In other woods, the military board, which would probably approve anything that called for an outlay from the state treasury, is simply asking Colorado to pay something for which no bills have yet been presented and properly checked, and Kenehan will not be a party to such an irregularity. That's all there is to it."

TO PROMOTE SAFETY.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The House of Representatives has passed an amendment to the Adamson law providing a service of railroad employes. Henceforth the penalty for any violation of this law shall be $100 for each offense.

The old section provided penalties of "not to exceed $200 for each and every offense." The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which favored the change, reported to the House that courts have been imposing penalties ranging from 1 cent to $250, and that "the adoption of this amendment will undoubtedly tend to a strict observance of the law."

AMEND COMPENSATION ACT.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 12.—The Trades and Labor Council has passed a resolution calling on the State Federation of Labor to urge an amendment to the State compensation law which will include workers incapacitated because of occupational illness. The Michigan Supreme Court recently held that the law as it now stands, does not permit the payment of benefits to those who have contracted disease in the course of their employment.

PREDICTS STEEL BOOM.

Chicago, Sept. 12.—The Tribune of this city says: The United States has received an unprecedented number of inquiries and a large number of orders for steel and iron products, according to the general issue of the Iron Trade Review.

"The inquiries in many cases are accompanied by offers, and it is reported that thousands of men will be required in the steel industry to supply the demand. Russia, France, Belgium, South America, the Orient, and Australia."

FOR TWO-PLATOON SYSTEM.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 12.—Common council of this city has voted to investigate the question of a two-platoon system, instead of the present twenty-four-hour shift, which prevails in the city's fire department. This is the result of constant agitation by the firemen and four firehouses have been built since for their families and for recreation.

HOD CARRIERS ORGANIZE.

Manchester, N. H., Sept. 12.—Hod carriers in this city have organized, elected officers, and received a charter from the International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' union.

WOMEN FORCED ON STRIKE

Chicago, Sept. 12.—The United States Broom and Brush company—the only factory of this kind in the country employing female workers—is confronted with a strike because of its anti-union attitude. These women workers have formed a union and are chartered by the International Broom and Whisk Makers' union. Discharges of the more active spirits resulted in the walk out.

In discussing conditions in this factory, Secretary-Treasurer Boyer, of the international union, said:

"One girl, who has been employed in the factory eighteen months, received $2 per week. The work this girl does is to pick the stems out of the broom corn for the broom makers. She stemmed for eight men. The employer took five cents per dozen off of the broom makers for the work this girl was doing. This totaled $1.20 a day off the broom makers, while she had to cents a day for the work.

"Another girl, making an extra fancy whisk broom, selling wholesale at $3 a dozen, leaving the manufacturer a profit of $1.50 received 20 cents a dozen for making the whisk. Union manufacturers in Chicago pay 60 cents a dozen for this whisk."

EDUCATION NECESSARY.

Henryetta, Okla., Sept. 12.—The necessity of workers acquiring an education was the subject of a talk by Professor Johnson, of the Oklahoma State School of Mines, before the recent convention of the State Federation of Labor. The speaker said:

"Organized labor has won its right to exist. Its right is recognized now, not only by the courts of the land, but by the Congress of the United States. And every action at this summit today will touch the lives of the people of this state and country and determine the future, so can well ask ourselves: What is the most important forward step that should now be taken by the organized labor movement of this convention?

"I want to urge before you the most important step that enters into greater efficiency in the education of the children of the laboring man through the extension system of this day and age.

"I want to offer you a university or college education. I am here to plead for the establishment of such an education to the laboring man, at least within the sphere of his occupation."

ADOPTS PARCEL POST PLAN.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The plan of Postmaster Praeger of this city to utilize the parcel post law for the delivery to produce to city consumers has spread throughout the country. Scores of State and county fairs are advertising the scheme as one of their "striking and novel features."

A statement issued by the Postoffice department declares that "Postmaster General Burleson's suggestion that postmasters arrange with farmers for filling the public ocular demonstrations of the practicability of the new method of using the parcel post has been adopted on a huge scale."

Hundreds of letters in reply showing the widespread adoption of the plan have been received by the Postmaster General. Assistant Postmaster General Roper says of the parcel post has become so general that the Postoffice Department has been compelled to employ additional copies of the circular recently issued.

PLAN TO AVERT STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 12.—The International Textile Workers' Organizing union has appointed two representatives to sit on a proposed board of arbitration that will attempt to adjust differences between these workers and their employers. Recently a mass meeting of the local unions was addressed by President Gompers and other unionists, when the deplorable business in the industry was discussed, and ultimatums delivered that last year's mass meeting strike would be duplicated if relief was not granted.

MINERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 12.—The long strike of United Mine Workers at Vancouver Island has been declared off. The operators agreed to employ all men in their employ at beginning of the trouble without discrimination and as rapidly as physical conditions of the mines will permit. The managements further agree that so long as the best interests of the properties will not be prejudiced, they will conserved they will not employ any new men until all of their former employes who desire work shall have been reinstated.

MAKE STEADY ADVANCES.

Los Angeles, Sept. 12.—With the signing of the contract with the Ladies' Tailors union is attracting the attention of the local labor movement because of the steady progress it has made. The agreements are the result of practically a 100 per cent organization, and provide for the union shop, increases of wages, the eight-hour day, abolishment of piece work, the eight-hour day, no Sunday work, increased wages and the dividing up of work in slack times.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Buffalo, Sept. 12.—Laundry workers in this city have organized. At the preliminary meeting it was shown that increases have been made in the price of laundry work the last few years, but no wage increases have resulted. The organization was effected by the laundrymen adding a 1 cent tax on every bundle to meet the cost of the operation of the compensation law. The workers charge that this is an attempt to discredit the new measure.

BED WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Sept. 12.—At a mass meeting of muff bed workers it was voted to accept the agreement under which conditions were secured. One employer has granted the demands of the union, and these workers will go back to work and receive a Saturday half holiday all the year 'round, ten legal holidays with pay, and a 44-hour week. Overtime is to be $2 each and a minimum wage scale of not less than $10 a week.

WIN FIRST POINT.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 12.—The Glass Bottle Blowers' association won the first point in its wage conference with the Glass Manufacturers when the Glass Bottle Manufacturers when the latter agreed to meet the union for another year to present shop rules and wages.

URGE GOMPERS TO ASSIST.

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—Numerous civic and central bodies have forwarded invitations to President Gompers to come to this State and join in the eight-hour campaign, which will be decided at the November election.

WOMEN URGES TRUCE IN MINE WAR

Washington, Sept. 12.—President Wilson has submitted a plan for a three-year truce in the Colorado strike to the operators and officers of the United Mine Workers. Both sides are urged to consider this "tentative basis for the adjustment of the strike" drawn by the Commission of Conciliation, appointed by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

The basis of agreement offered by the President includes the establishment of a three-year truce, subject to the enforcement of the mining and labor laws of Colorado; the return to work of miners who have not been convicted of law violations; the prohibition of intimidation of union or nonunion men; the publication of current scales of wages and rules and the appointment of a grievance committee by the employes.

The agreement provides that in cases where the officers of the company or the grievance committee cannot settle differences, a commission of three men, named by the President, shall step in and act as the final referee of all disputes.

Under the agreement the claim for jurisdictional relations would be waived. No mine guards would be employed, the Federal troops on duty in the strike district would be withdrawn, picketing, parading, colonizing or mass campaigning by both parties would cease, and the suspension of work would be prohibited pending a decision by the commission. The right of free discussion would be divided between the employers and employes.

FREY ON LECTURE PLATFORM.

Hannibal, Mo., Sept. 12.—In a lecture on "The Progress and Problems of Labor," delivered before the Hannibal Labor Journal, said: "The trade union movement has made mistakes, but it has done more than any other to help the poor. We did not always have free schools, but organized labor established them. We are doing much to create better conditions and better hours for the women who are forced to work. I believe that the men should support the women and that they should be the only worker instead of the wage-earner. The trade unions say that where the women are forced to wage-earners it is the duty of the state to throw all of the safety guards around them."

Frey made a studious explanation and defense of the trade union movement, and the local press devoted several columns to the effort.

STRIKE IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

Denver, Sept. 12.—The copper strike in northern Michigan improved working conditions, is the claim of Secretary Hietala, of District union, No. 16, of Western Federation of Miners, in a report at the recent convention in this city.

"Miners who worked previous to the strike a 9-hour shift, now work 8 hours; work only 8½ hour shifts, including lunch hour, powering into and hoisting men in the mine. Wages increased from $2.90, $2.70 or $3.10 to $3.50 a day. Of course, the mine drill we could not get abolished, but the work that was demanded previous to strike has been lightened considerably. Engineers' shifts now instead of from 10 to 12 hours per shift. Wages day shift, $3.50 and $3.75 and $3.75 after the strike. We might say in a general way that all the underground workers have had an effort made to get instead of 10 to 12 hour shifts, as was done previous to the strike, with increased wages and better working conditions. Mill and smelter men who worked 12 hours a shift now work 8 hours a shift, 8 hours with the increased wages. Surface men worked 11 hours a day, now work 8 hours a day, with the increased wages and shorter working day."

WORKERS AGAINST WAR.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 12.—The Central Trades and Labor Union of this city has protested against the European war in strong preambles and resolutions. The resolutions declare against militarism involving the burdens of militarism upon the working people, and the way to avoid war is the growth of democracy in civilization. Arbitration is favored as a method of settling international disputes.

WOULD REDUCE HOURS.

Indianapolis, Sept. 12.—At the recent convention of the International Photo-Engravers' union the executive council was instructed to take steps to bring about a 44-hour week instead of a 48-hour week, as at present prevails. This would mean a Saturday half holiday.

The question of raising the president's and secretary-treasurer's salary will be submitted to the referendum.

METAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 12.—Sheet metal workers in this city now realize their mistake in allowing their trade union to lapse, several years ago, and have reorganized and made application for a charter.

"LABOR" BUREAUS EXPOSED

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 12.—A general clean-up of fake employment bureaus in this state by officers of the law has followed the recent exposed astounding practices to cheat poor persons out of work out of their money.

The trickery employed by employment agents in the larger cities was perpetrated on country people, who were not familiar with the laws or conditions of the country. The agents advertised extensively in the rural press of other states, the advertisements being of a misleading character, and prospective victims were induced to write for application blanks for certain occupations. These blanks were returned with a fee for registration open, and that they might obtain it by filling in and returning the paper and a registration fee would be given them for from 50 cents upward.

The elasticity of these fees shows that there was no fixed rule to govern the application, each one apparently possessing a purchasable responsibility to pay. One applicant for a position as a cook answered an advertisement was assessed 25 cents for a certain position, while another applicant for the same position was charged $1.50. A Hartford man, living in Manchester, who desired the same kind of occupation, was required to pay $3.50. Applicants for positions were not made aware of the state law which makes it necessary for employment agencies procuring a position for an applicant within thirty days to return the registration fee. Many of these who had made visits were discouraged after making frequent visits to the agencies without result, and merely dropped the matter entirely. Even were some who were called out of the city by work and who, therefore, did not have the time to wait for the expiration of the month to get their money back.